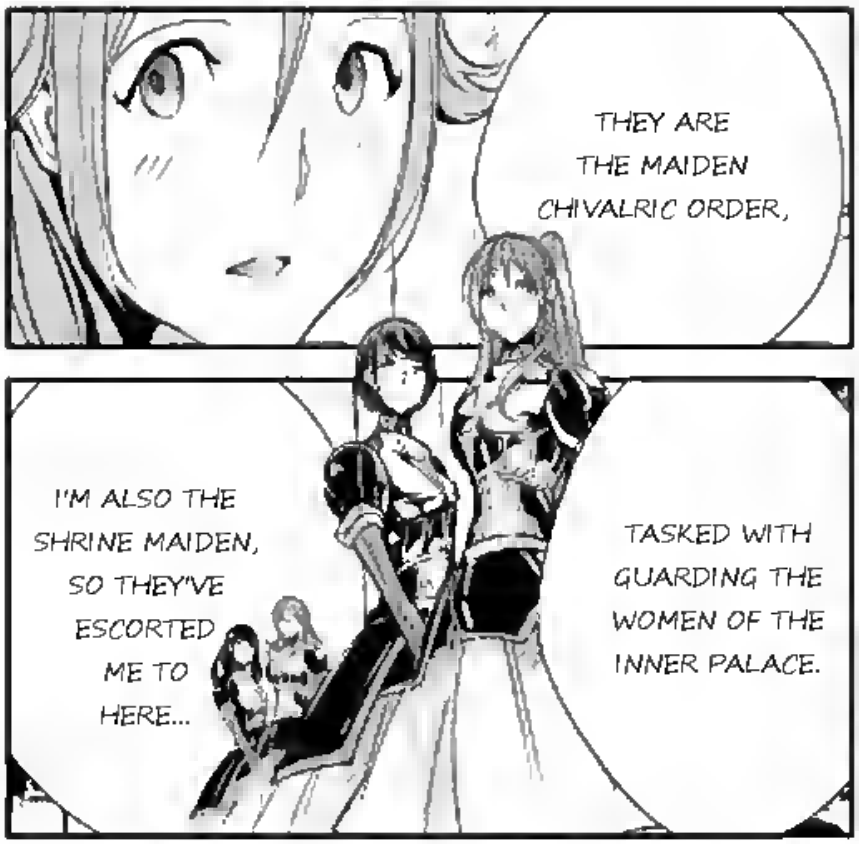
WAS SO HAPPY
I COOKED THE MEAL TODAY!
WELCOME BACK, YOUR HIGHNESS!
LILICIA
WHEN I RETURNED,
I SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO KEEP YOU TO MYSELF FOR AT LEAST TODAY!
I CAN'T JUST REFUSE HER WHEN SHE WANTS TO BATHE WITH ME...
I-I SHOULD GET USED TO THIS... AS THE KING...
HER CLOTHES... ARE TRANSPARENT...
UMM...
.....
I'LL RINSE YOUR BACK NOW.
白の皇国物語 第四十二回〈後編〉
原作：白沢戌亥　漫画：不二まーゆ

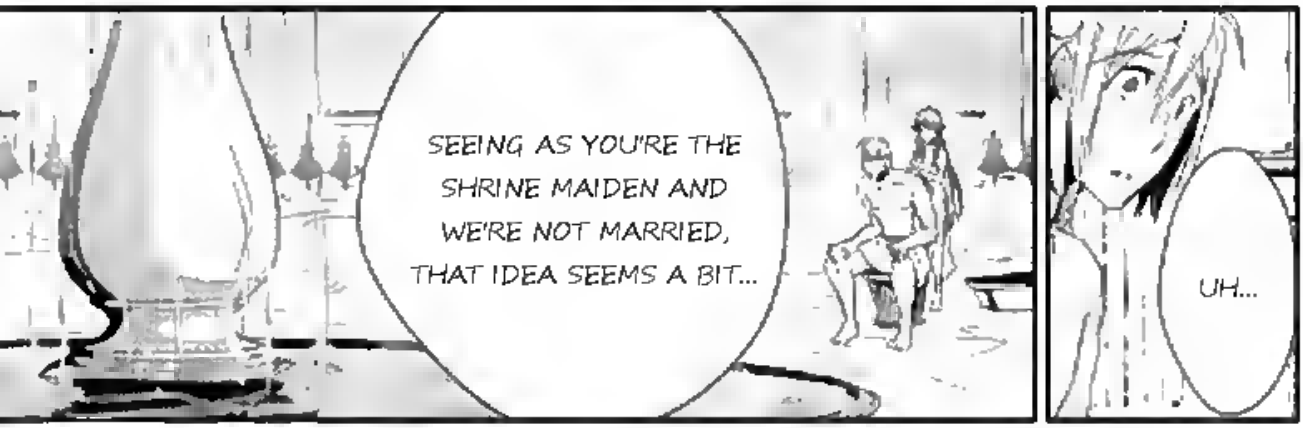

THEY ARE THE MAIDEN CHIVALRIC ORDER,
I'M ALSO THE SHRINE MAIDEN, SO THEY'VE ESCORTED ME TO HERE...
TASKED WITH GUARDING THE WOMEN OF THE INNER PALACE.

WHO ARE THEY?
OH.

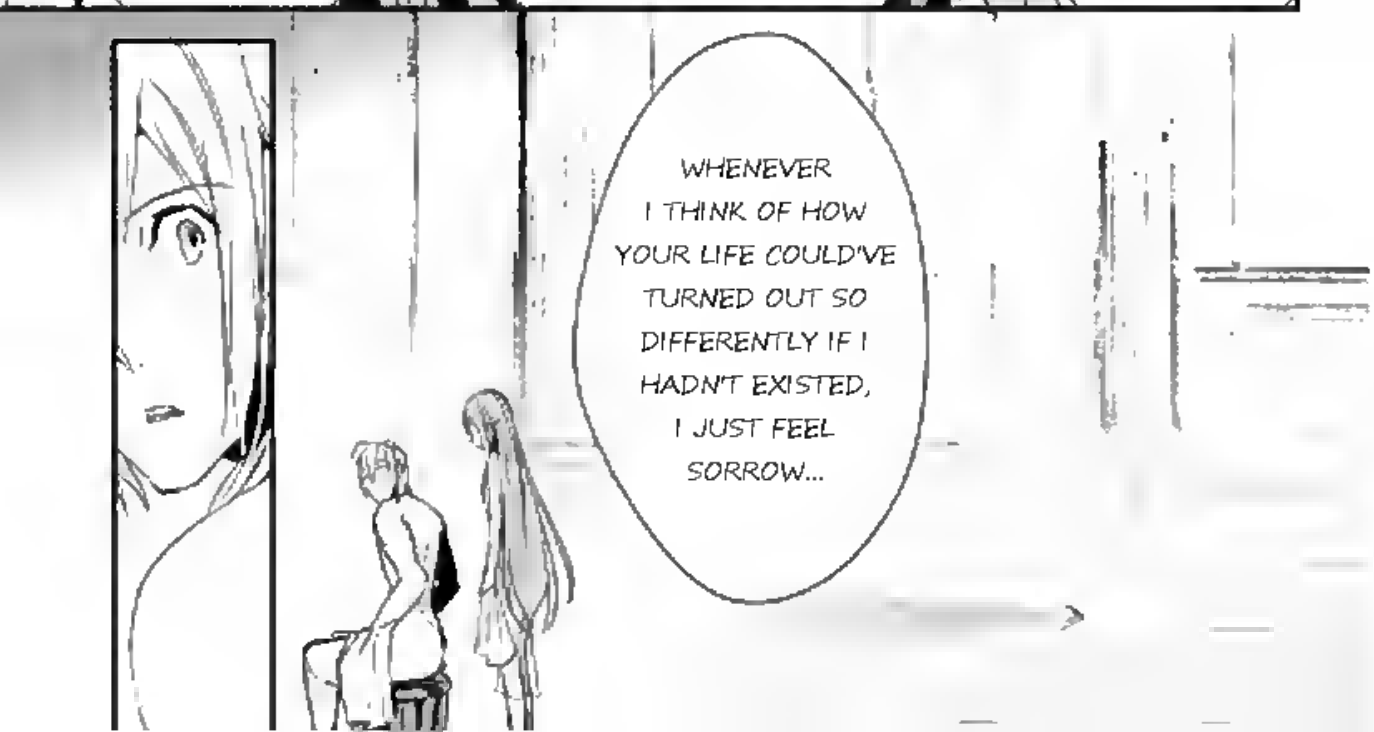
SO I'M USED TO THIS,
I NEEDED SOMEONE TO ACCOMPANY ME TO THE BATH AND HELP ME,
BACK IN THE TEMPLE, WHEN I COULDN'T SEE,

LILICIA...
THOUGH I SUPPOSE YOU MIGHT NOT BE USED TO IT YET, MASTER LECTIVAL.

IT SEEMS ALL OF THE BATHS YOU SEE HERE ARE DRAWING WATER FROM A HOT SPRING.
BECAUSE SHE'S THE SHRINE MAIDEN, IT SEEMS SHE'S HAD TO GIVE UP ON MANY THINGS IN HER LIFE.
THERE'S ALSO AN OPEN AIR BATH OUTSIDE IF YOU'D LIKE TO GO THERE...

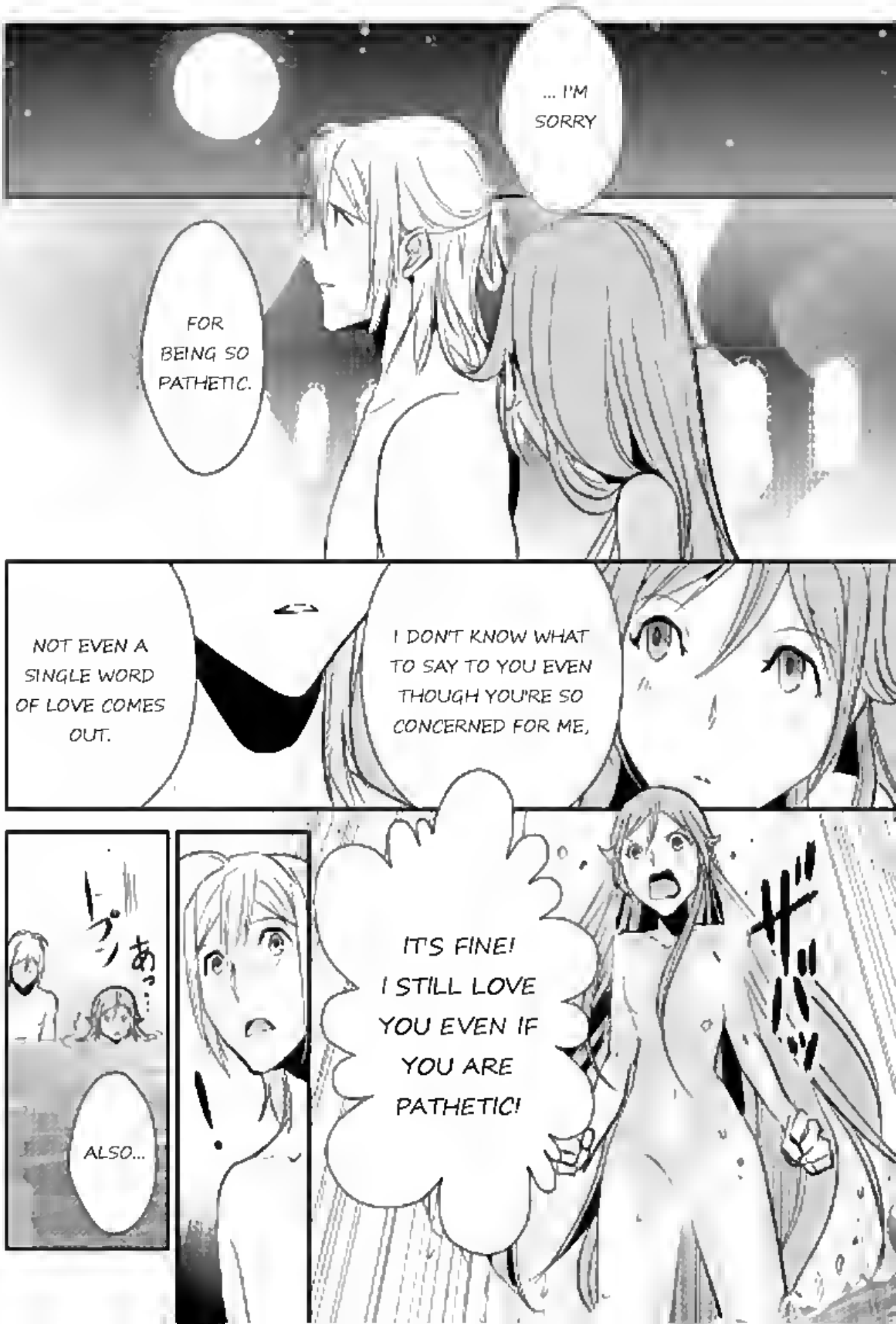

SEEING AS YOU'RE THE SHRINE MAIDEN AND WE'RE NOT MARRIED, THAT IDEA SEEMS A BIT...
UH...

... AS THE SHRINE MAIDEN, I EXIST SOLELY FOR YOU. YOU ARE EVERYTHING TO ME, MASTER LECTIVAL.
BUT THAT BINDS YOU TO THE KING AND THE THRONE...

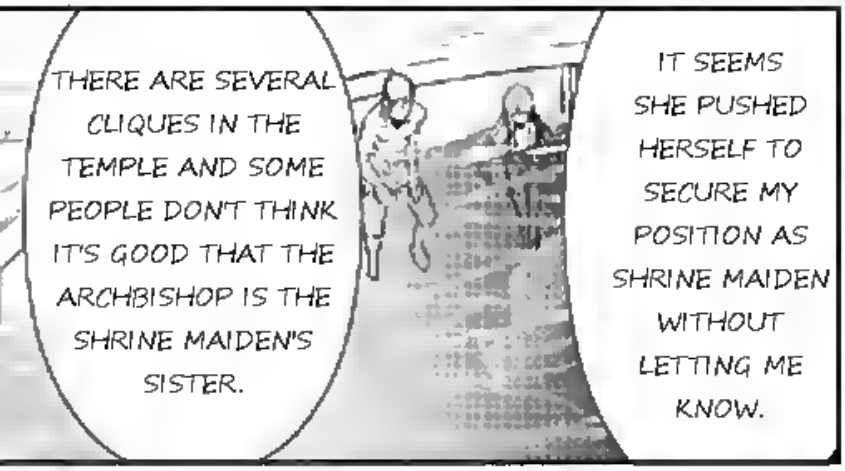

WHENEVER I THINK OF HOW YOUR LIFE COULD'VE TURNED OUT SO DIFFERENTLY IF I HADN'T EXISTED, I JUST FEEL SORROW...

IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE SPENT SOME TIME TOGETHER, LET'S TALK.
THE MOON LOOKS BEAUTIFUL TONIGHT, SO LET'S GO TO THE OPEN AIR BATH.
LILICIA, LET'S GO OUTSIDE.
YES.
Y-

UM...
THAT'S... I WAS JUST THINKING THAT YOUR SKIN LOOKS BEAUTIFUL... AND SOFT...
UNLIKE MY SISTER'S, MY CHEST IS... SMALL, ISN'T IT?


... I'M SORRY
FOR BEING SO PATHETIC.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY TO YOU EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE SO CONCERNED FOR ME,
NOT EVEN A SINGLE WORD OF LOVE COMES OUT.
IT'S FINE! I STILL LOVE YOU EVEN IF YOU ARE PATHETIC!
ALSO...

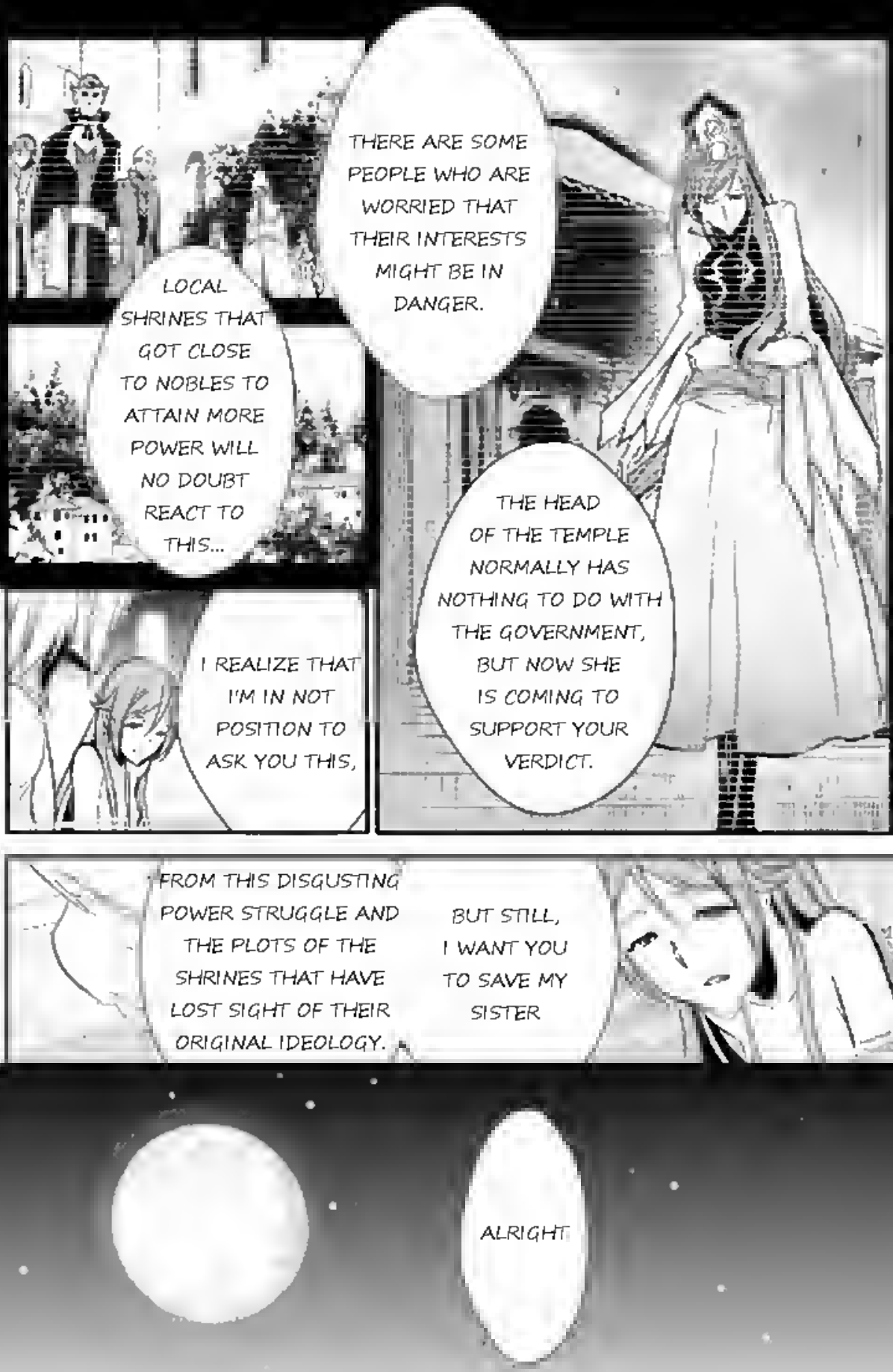
... YOU'RE QUITE SIMILAR TO MY SISTER.
AS PATHETIC AS YOU ARE, YOU STILL TRY YOUR HARDEST. SO MUCH SO THAT I WORRY YOU'RE PUSHING YOURSELF TOO HARD.


THERE ARE SEVERAL CLIQUES IN THE TEMPLE AND SOME PEOPLE DON'T THINK IT'S GOOD THAT THE ARCHBISHOP IS THE SHRINE MAIDEN'S SISTER.
IT SEEMS SHE PUSHED HERSELF TO SECURE MY POSITION AS SHRINE MAIDEN WITHOUT LETTING ME KNOW.

TO MILEIDIA?

MY SISTER MIGHT COME TO WITNESS THE UPCOMING VERDICT.
MASTER LECTIVAL,

YES.
SAVE?
PLEASE SAVE HER IF SHE DOES!


THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE WHO ARE WORRIED THAT THEIR INTERESTS MIGHT BE IN DANGER.
LOCAL SHRINES THAT GOT CLOSE TO NOBLES TO ATTAIN MORE POWER WILL NO DOUBT REACT TO THIS...
THE HEAD OF THE TEMPLE NORMALLY HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE GOVERNMENT, BUT NOW SHE IS COMING TO SUPPORT YOUR VERDICT.
I REALIZE THAT I'M IN NOT POSITION TO ASK YOU THIS,
FROM THIS DISGUSTING POWER STRUGGLE AND THE PLOTS OF THE SHRINES THAT HAVE LOST SIGHT OF THEIR ORIGINAL IDEOLOGY.
BUT STILL, I WANT YOU TO SAVE MY SISTER
ALRIGHT

!
LILICIA,
YOU CAN TRUST ME A LITTLE MORE.
IF YOU WISH FOR SOMETHING,
I'LL DO WHATEVER I CAN TO GRANT YOU THAT WISH.
... OKAY.

MASTER LECTICAL!
LET'S START PREPARING.
WELL, NOW THAT THAT'S DECIDED,
LI-
THE NIGHT OF LECTIVAL'S RETURN CONTINUED ON
HAD THE MAIDEN CHIVALRIC ORDER SEEN WHAT HAD TRANSPIRED?